



Building
together
for our future.

Braidside Integrated Primary and Nursery School

**87 Fry's Road, Ballymena Co. Antrim BT43 7EN
1989- 2019: 30 Years of Integration**

028 25647899



Principal: J McAuley

www.braidside.co.uk

21/03/20

EMERGENCY SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN OF KEY WORKERS

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Following the announcement by the DE/ Minister Weir earlier this week regarding school closures, Braidside Integrated Primary and Nursery School is now closed to pupils, to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. However, the information received on Thursday evening indicated that from Monday 23rd schools would be open with a skeleton staff to support children of key workers. It has been incredibly difficult to stay abreast of information and guidance from DE/ EA and to implement this appropriately. Guidance has unfortunately been released, often in the evening, and presents new challenges every day. We are grateful for your patience in these matters.

We wish to support the families of key workers in our school. We recognise the very difficult and challenging work you are doing at this time and want to express our gratitude for your work, dedication and professionalism. It is clear from the guidance that if children can stay safely at home they should do so. If you can make any alternative childcare arrangements, we ask you to please do so. *School facilities should be considered a final option.* It remains vitally important, that we plan the provision for children of key workers appropriately, taking into account the reduced staff, social distancing and the capacity available.

Braidside Integrated Primary and Nursery will not be available for this provision until Wednesday 25th March, after the preparation of learning materials and their distribution has been completed and when we have worked through key worker logistics for staff. With this in mind, if you are an identified key worker (see below), please make contact with the school via the school email account (info@braidsideintegratedps.ballymena.ni.sch.uk) by Monday 23rd at 3pm. If parents wish they can telephone the school from 8:30am on Monday morning. Parents should pay particular attention to the following points:

- School opening hours will be 9am-2pm/ 3pm.
- Schools will be operating childcare duties, rather than teaching and what would be considered a normal school day, and as we are working with a skeleton staff, children may not be with their own specific teacher.
- Children should bring a packed lunch until such times as operational matters such as meals are determined.
- Please bear in mind that our school will take careful consideration of social distancing, the health and well-being of all staff and pupils and staffing levels.

When parents contact the school they should provide all necessary information. Places will then be allocated when all information has been gathered. The school will notify

families if a place is available for Wednesday 25th. Only families who have been informed of a place should attend school.

As you will be aware, this situation is changing on a daily basis and we continue to try to manage the guidance and information coming to schools and to implement this to the best of our ability. We are grateful for your support and we recognise that at this time we all need to come together for the benefit of us all.

Yours faithfully,

J. McAuley

Principal.

Key Workers: This list is not exhaustive.

- Health and Social Care. This includes doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, home carers and staff required to maintain our health and social care sector
- Education and childcare. This includes nursery and teaching staff, social workers and those specialist education professionals who will remain active during the Covid-19 response
- Public safety and national security. This includes civilians and officers in the police (including key contractors), Fire and Rescue Service, prison service and other national security roles
- Transport. This will include those keeping air, water, road and rail transport modes operating during the Covid-19 response
- Utilities and Communication. This includes staff needed for oil, gas, electricity and water (including sewage) and primary industry supplies, to continue during the Covid-19 response, as well as key staff in telecommunications, post and delivery, services and waste disposal
- Food and other necessary goods. This includes those involved in food production, processing, distribution and sale, as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (e.g hygiene, medical etc)
- Other workers essential to delivering key public services
- Key national and local government including those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the Covid-19 response